

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

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R 240045Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186606

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MASS, NO, SP

SUBJECT: ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO

REFS: (A) USDAO MADRID, 061130Z, AUG 74; (B) MADRID 4991

(C) USDAO RABAT, 080645Z, AUG 74

1. BACKGROUND ON CURRENT ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO IS THAT FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER MID-EAST WAR AND THE SECRETARY'S VISIT WITH KING HASSAN IN RABAT IN NOVEMBER 1973, IT WAS AGREED TO RESPOND TO THE KING'S REQUEST FOR A U.S. MILITARY MISSION TO VISIT RABAT TO LISTEN TO GOM VIEWS OF NEEDS AND OFFER PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL ADVICE ON EFFICACY OF SYSTEMS AND CONCEPTS PROPOSED.

2. WHILE THE CONCEPTS PROPOSED BY THE KING INCLUDED MODERNIZATION OF A TWO BRIGADE FORCE, HE WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED OVER HIS PERCEIVED NEED FOR TANKS. THE MOROCCAN TANKS THAT WERE NOT LOST IN THE WAR, WERE APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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LEFT IN SYRIA AND EGYPT. AS A RESULT OF THE KING'S

URGENT REQUEST FOR TANKS, IT WAS AGREED TO SELL 26 M48-A3 TANKS FOR DELIVERY IN FALL 1974. IT WAS ALSO AGREED TO PROVIDE LIMITED NUMBER OF AIM9 MISSILES AND LAW MISSILES. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FROM MOROCCO, THESE REQUESTS ARE BEING CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITIES. THEREFORE, ANY ARRANGEMENT TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR

MOROCCO'S BRIGADE FORCE WOULD, FOR THE MOST PART, HAVE TO REFLECT PROJECTED LONG LEAD-TIMES.

3. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED AT YOUR DISCRETION TO INFORM APPROPRIATE LEVEL GOS THAT AS RESULT OF LENGTHY NEGOTIATIONS AND LONG STANDING REQUEST, WE INTEND TO DELIVER LIMITED NUMBERS OF M 48-A3 TANKS (ABOUT TWO DOZEN) TO MOROCCO, PROBABLY IN SEPTEMBER. THIS TRANSACTION IS VALUED AT A FRACTION OF THE 40 MILLION DOLS. MENTIONED IN ONE REPORT WE HAVE HEARD. FURTHER MODEST ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO WILL PROBABLY OCCUR PERIODICALLY AS PART OF THE KING'S LONG-RANGE MODERNIZATION PLAN AND OUR DESIRE TO MAINTAIN TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH MOROCCO. WE WILL NOT, IN ANY CASE, MAKE ARMS SALES TO MOROCCO WHICH WOULD APPRECIABLY AFFECT THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE AREA TO THE DETRIMENT OF SPAIN.

4. FOR RABAT: DEPARTMENT HAS GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION TO THE REASONS ADVANCED IN REF C FOR NOT BRIEFING THE GOS ON THIS SUBJECT. HOWEVER, WE CONCLUDED THAT BRIEFING IS JUSTIFIED WITHIN CONTEXT OF THE CONSULTATIONS ANNOUNCED IN THE JOINT U.S.-SPAIN DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES OF JULY 9 AND AS A MEANS OF LIMITING SPANISH CONCERN DERIVING FROM EXAGGERATED RUMORS OF THE EXTENT OF OUR SALES TO MOROCCO. KISSINGER

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